

Campbell at Elba; he affected, on the contrary, to be pleased with it. For a considerable time he even seemed to seek the society of the British envoy, held frequent intercourse with him, and conversed with apparent confidence on public affairs. It appeared from these conversations that Napoleon's expressions were arranged, generally speaking, on a premeditated plan, yet it is equally evident that his ardent temperament, when once engaged in discourse, led him to discover more of his own private thoughts than he would on cool reflection have suffered to escape him.

In September, for example, Sir Neil Campbell had an audience of three hours, during which Napoleon, with his habitual impatience of a sedentary posture, walked from one end of the room to the other, and talked incessantly. He was happy, he said, that Sir Neil remained in Elba, *pour rompre la chi-'mere* (to destroy the idea that he, Bonaparte, had any further intention of disturbing the peace of Europe). "I think," he continued, "of nothing beyond the verge of my little isles. I could have supported the war for twenty years if I had chosen. I am now a retired person, occupied with nothing but my family, my retreat, my house, my cows, and my poultry." And yet, not unfrequently, the very moment after assertions like these Napoleon's eye would flash, his lips quiver, and on some sudden reference to the Bourbons, or to his army, he would let words escape him that proved ambition was still alive and working within him.

On another occasion he described the ferment in France, which he said he had learned from the correspondence of his Guards with their native country, and went on to say plainly that the present disaffection would break out with all the fury of the former revolution, and require his own resurrection. "For then," he added, "the sovereigns of Europe will soon find it necessary for their own repose to call on me to tranquillize matters."

Sir Neil Campbell conceived some suspicions, but, upon the whole, thought it unlikely that the Emperor meditated an escape, unless a very tempting opening should present itself in France or Italy.